

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: DUAL PARTY RELAY SERVICE	DOCKET NO. IOWA CODE § 477C.3
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**ORDER AWARDING DUAL PARTY
RELAY SERVICE CONTRACT**

(Issued September 22, 1999)

On June 29, 1999, the Utilities Board (Board) issued a request for proposals (RFP) to provide dual party relay service in Iowa after the expiration of the current contract on December 31, 1999. Bids compliant with the Board's RFP were received from Sprint Communications Company, L.P. (Sprint), and Hamilton Telephone Company, d/b/a Hamilton Telecommunications (Hamilton), on August 13, 1999. Neither bidder stated exceptions to either the RFP or the form contract included in the RFP, although each listed modifications it proposed the Board consider in the final contract.

Pursuant to its advisory duties under IOWA CODE § 477C.5, the Dual Party Relay Council (Council) reviewed the two bids on August 31, 1999. The Council recommended to the Board, by a recorded vote of 9-1, that the contract should be awarded to Sprint.

The Board has reviewed the responses of the bidders to the RFP, the clarification letters received from Sprint and Hamilton on August 27, 1999, and the advice and recommendation of the Council. While both of the bids are compliant

with the requirements of the RFP, and the Board believes each of the bidders is capable of providing this important service in Iowa, the Board finds the Sprint bid to be superior. Sprint has a proven record of providing very high quality relay service that has satisfied the needs of communications impaired Iowans. When that record of excellent service is added to the lower price in the Sprint bid, and the strong preference of the Council, the Board finds the contract award should go to Sprint.

The Board wishes to thank Hamilton Telecommunications for its continued interest in Iowa relay service and commends its efforts in preparing a fine bid. As shown in the many positive comments provided by its references, the states that have chosen Hamilton are served by a highly competent company.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The contract award to provide statewide telephone relay service from January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2002, with a possible option for an additional two-year term, is made to Sprint. A contract between the Utilities Board and Sprint shall be executed at the earliest possible time.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr. /s/ Diane Munns
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 22nd day of September, 1999.